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Office of Information, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

1915 BIRD COUNT.

124 Pairs on Average Farm in Northeast--  
125 Pair to 100 Acres in Plains Region.

Washington, D. C.,

One hundred and twenty-four

pairs of birds nest and raise their families on the average farm of 108 acres in the Northeastern States, according to estimates based upon the second annual bird count conducted by the Biological Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. In that part of the Plains region east of the 100th meridian the counts would indicate almost exactly the same density of bird population, 125 pairs of nesting birds to each 100 acres. In the Southern States, where the counts were limited to the part of the farm surrounding the home, which naturally supports more birds than tilled areas, there seem to be on the farms where counts were taken 131 pairs of nesting birds to each 100 acres. The counts so far received, however, from these sections do not furnish a sufficient basis for estimating the birds on the remainder of the farm.

In the Northeastern States it was estimated that the average bird population of each 100 acres of isolated woodland under observation was 199 pairs, while the average bird population for each 100 acres of the area covered was 125 pairs. The reports from the Rocky Mountain States would indicate that the bird population is smaller in this section.

Three 80-acre tracts in New Mexico indicated 17 pairs to 80 acres, or 21 pairs to each 100 acres. Still farther west in the irrigated district of western Colorado two reports indicated that irrigated land in orchard and in fields of grain and root crops supported a bird population of 66 pairs per 100 acres, but on contiguous nonirrigated land the bird life shrank to 5 pairs for 100 acres. In Arizona a 40-acre tract containing only a few houses, and for the most part covered with desert shrubs, showed a bird population of 50 pairs of 26 species, of which 22 were insectivorous. A semidesert tract of the same size, covered with brush mostly less than 6 feet high, showed 31 pairs of 16 species. In the mountains of Arizona, near Flagstaff, a tract of 70 acres covered with yellow pine and Gambel oak supported a bird population of 31 pairs of 18 species.

In California 20 acres of the campus of the Iniversity of California showed 87 pairs of 23 species. A tract near Gilroy, Cal., containing 30 acres of fruits and about 8 acres of pasture and creek bottom, gave the unusual figure of 176 pairs of 34 species on 38 acres. A similarly dense, though less varied, bird population was found in a 52-acre peach orchard near Port Clinton, Ohio. This showed 108 pairs of common farm birds, 36 pairs of purple martins, and 6 pairs of English sparrows, a total of 150 pairs of 29 species.

In the South the counts showed an average of 77 pairs of 20 species and 5 pairs of English sparrows on 83 acres in Florida; in Louisiana an average of 95 pairs of 29 species on 53 acres; and the counts from Texas indicate an average of 91 pairs of birds of 21 species on 60 acres. The average of all counts received from the Southern States is 76 pairs of birds of 23 species on a farm of 58 acres.

On the 256 acres on the Cornell University campus at Ithaca, N. Y., a very careful study indicated 573 pairs of nesting birds, an average of 166 pairs of native nesting birds per 100 acres, and 56 nesting pairs of English sparrows per 100 acres, or a total of 225 nesting birds per 100 acres. A similar count made near Rhinebeck, N. Y., in a 210-acre section indicated 54 different kinds represented by 366 pairs, nearly the same per acre as shown at Cornell University.

The results of the 1915 bird count just published by the Biological Survey indicate an average of 8 pairs of robins and 6 pairs of English sparrows on each farm of 108 acres where the count was made in the Northeastern States. The average of all reports for two years show 7 pairs of robins and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  pairs of English sparrows for each farm covered in this section.